

MORNING BULLETIN

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

Now you understand

Veteran diplomat and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Vernon Walters has met scores of communist leaders during a diplomatic career that spans four decades. He told reporters recently that communists have a "terrific understanding" of power.

Mr. Walters recalled a meeting several years ago in Havana with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro:

"He [Castro] said, 'If you've come here to threaten me, you should understand that I've been threatened by every president of the United States since John Fitzgerald Kennedy. But I understand how your government works, and I know that none of your congresses will allow any of your presidents to do to me what they would like to do to me.'"

"I said, 'Mr. President, I did not come here to threaten you. I came here to tell you a truth as old as history: When a great nation like mine finds itself threatened in its vital interests, you must understand that it is prepared to consider all possible options, excluding none.'"

"He [Castro] said, 'Sit down.'"

"So one of the things they [Marxist leaders] have is this understanding of how our system works," Mr. Walters said.